(b) if so, whether the Committee had considered some other issues;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether Centre's powers to give directions to the States under Articles 256 and 257 of the Constitution was also taken up by the Committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (d) The Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council in its Ninth meeting on 13th May, 2003 considered 17 recommendations of Sarkaria Commission's report on Centre-State relations relating to the subjects of Administrative Relations (one), Emergency Provisions (twelve) and Deployment of Union Armed Forces (four).

In addition, the Standing Committee considered the report of the Sub-Committee of the Inter-State Council on contract labour and contract appointments, and implementation report on the decision taken by the Inter-State Council on the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission.

The recommendation on 'Administrative Relations' which was considered in the above-mentioned meeting pertains to the power of the Union to give directions to States under articles 256 and 257 of the Constitution.

The recommendations of the Standing Committee are required to be placed in the next meeting of the Inter-State Council scheduled to be held on 27-28 August, 2003 in Srinagar, for its consideration.

Policy Shift in Jammu and Kashmir

315. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accorded policy shift in Jammu and Kashmir by appointing Mr. N.N. Vohra; and

(b) whether the mandate given to Mr. Vohra is different from that provided to Mr. K.C. Pant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) No, Sir. Being open to talks with the people

of J & K has long been a part of Government policy regarding J&K.

(b) The mandate given to both Shri K.C. Pant and Shri N. N. Vohra is to have a dialouge with representatives of all walks of life in the State of Jammu and Kashmir to elicit their views as part of efforts at moving towards peace and normalcy.

Solution of Ayodhya issue outside court jurisdiction

316. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are pursuing a solution to Ayodhya issue outside court jurisdiction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to resolve the issue at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government is firmly of the view that Ayodhya dispute can be resolved, either through mutual agreement among all the parties concerned or through the verdict of the judiciary. Therefore pending judicial verdict, the Government will continue to facilitate all attempts to find an amicable resolution of the dispute.

Ban on religious institutions in border areas

†317. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a large number of places of worship and other institution are being constructed in areas adjacent to international border of the country; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government so far to keep a check on such activities and by when a complete ban will be imposed thereon?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.